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MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1955



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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Melford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1955.

It will be noted that during the year the estimated population remained the same. No deaths resulted from the Notifiable Diseases, although there was a sharp epidemic of Measles during the summer months.

I wish to thank the chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement during the year. The Clerk of the Council, Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, and the Water Engineer, Mr. H.J. Harrington, have given willing assistance for which I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

Area of the District.	47,270 acres.
Rateable Value.	(£49,337) £51,996.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	(£203. 7s. 2d.) £209.14s. -d.
Number of inhabited houses.	(4344)* 4414
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	(12980) 12980

* This figure includes Hutment accommodation

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(82) 86	(84) 80	(166) 166
Illegitimate.	(5) 3	(4) 5	(9) 8
Totals.	(87) 89	(88) 85	(175) 174

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) (13.5) 13.4

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
(adjusted) (13.6) 13.5

Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) (15.2) 15.0

Illegitimate Birth Rate. ... (5.1%) 4.6%

Still Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 1	(1) 1	(2) 2
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals.	(1) 1	(1) 1	(2) 2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births (11.9) 11.9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births
(England and Wales) ... (23.5) 23.1

Deaths:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(88) 75	(70) 69	(158) 144

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) (13.5) 11.1

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population
(adjusted) (13.6) 9.1

Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) (11.3) 11.7

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion. (Nil) Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	...	...	...	(-) 5	(2) 3	(2) 8
Illegitimate.	...	...	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals.	...	...	...	(-) 5	(2) 3	(2) 8

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births. ... (11.4) 46.0

(b) All Infants England and Wales. ... (24.0) 24.9

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	...	...	...	(-) 5	(2) 3	(2) 8
Illegitimate.	...	...	...	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals.	...	...	...	(-) 5	(2) 3	(2) 8

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Whooping Cough.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Diphtheria.....	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Influenza.	(-) 1	(-) 1	(-) 2
Cancer (All types)..	(11) 15	(15) 14	(25) 29
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(12) 6	(15) 9	(27) 15
Heart Disease (All forms).	(31) 18	(23) 24	(54) 42
Diabetes.	(-) -	(1) 1	(1) 1
Pneumonia.	(-) 7	(-) 5	(-) 12
Bronchitis. ..	(4) 3	(-) 4	(4) 7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	(2) 1	(-) -	(2) 1
Nephritis. ..	(3) 1	(1) 1	(4) 2
Accidents (Not motor vehicles)	(3) 2	(1) -	(4) 2
Accidents (Motor Vehicles)	(1) -	(-) -	(1) -
Suicide..	(1) 1	(-) -	(1) 1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(18) 20	(14) 10	(32) 30
Total...	(86) 75	(70) 69	(156) 144

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, whole time,
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, whole time,
I.C. Hazell, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide five Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Bures, Nayland and Great Waldingfield.

5. Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H.J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:

During the year ended 31st March, 1956, the Public Water Supplies in the Council's area have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, although during the dry periods the Great Cornard Pumping Station was worked to capacity. An application to install a larger type of pump in the borehole at the Great Cornard works is being made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A new section of 4-ins., Asbestos Cement main was installed from Rodbridge, Long Melford, to link up with the existing 6-ins., main passing through the Parish of Acton. This was necessary as numerous complaints were received that no pressure was available at Newmans Green during peak draw off.

At the end of March, 1956, 3,935 houses were receiving a main water supply, 2,572 having a Laid On supply and 1,363 properties are served by means of Standpipes in gardens.

Below is set out detailed information relating to each Parish.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of propert- ies connected</u>
Acton.	139.	27	166
Assington.	70	38	108
Great Cornard.	431	70	501
Little Cornard.	52	29	81
Chilton.	61	22	83
Leavenheath.	58	30	88
Newton.	62	34	96
Long Melford.	484	292	776
Great Waldingfield.	75	71	146
Little Waldingfield.	54	19	73
Stoke-by-Nayland.. . . .	148	61	209
Nayland.	186	42	228
Alpheton....	47	20	67
Boxted.	25	-	25
Glemsford...	204	394	598
Hartest.	86	31	117
Lawshall....	92	50	142
Shimpling...	68	18	86
Stanstead...	35	48	83
Somerton....	18	15	33
Bures.	177	52	229
Totals.	<u>2,572</u>	<u>1,363</u>	<u>3,935</u>

The consumption per head per day of the Population served on the various Schemes is as follows:

Central Area Scheme - Source of Supply, Great Cornard Bore -

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Great and Little Waldingfield, Newton and Leavenheath - 12.50 gallons per head per day. (13.30).

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme - Source of Supply - Bore, Scotland Street, Stoke-by-Nayland -

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland with Wissington - 14.96 gallons per head per day. (16.37).

Northern Area Water Scheme - Supply purchased in Bulk from Thingoe Rural District Council -

Serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead, Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall, Shimpling and Alpheton - 19.57 gallons per head per day. (13.04).

Bures Scheme - Supply purchased in Bulk from Lexden & Winstree Rural District Council -

Serving the Parish of Bures only - 20.34 gallons per head per day. (15.09).

Figures in Parentheses refer to year 1954.

None of the sources of supply tends to have Plumbo-solvent action.

Examination of Supplies

All supplies were analysed during the year, by the Council's Analyst, The Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all proved to be very satisfactory.

The total amount of water supplied during the year for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 107,267,000 gallons.

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES - Private.

Supplies of water from two wells and a spring were investigated, samples being submitted for bacteriological examination. The two wells were found to be heavily polluted. In one case the owner was able to provide a piped supply from the Council's mains. In the second case, no mains being available, considerable work had to be carried out, including relaying the house drains, before a satisfactory supply was obtained.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

The new sewage disposal works at Nayland came into operation in the second half of the year and a satisfactory number of applications for connections to the sewers were received. This was undoubtedly encouraged by the Council's decision to provide, free-of-charge, communicating drains up to the boundary of the applicant's property, subject to a maximum length of 100-feet.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council continues to provide a fortnightly refuse collection for all parishes except Long Melford where it is done weekly.

The unsatisfactory nature of the tips being used by the Borough of Sudbury and this Council encouraged the idea of a joint scheme using mechanical means of levelling and consolidating the refuse. A new tip was opened within the Borough boundary and a small bulldozer purchased. This Scheme has proved successful and there are now no refuse tips in use in the Rural District.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

5,550 loads were taken from the various Council Estates by the three cleansing units. This was an increase of 1,275 loads over the previous year's work.

From private houses 615 emptyings were made from a total of 335 properties which were distributed through the District as follows:-

Acton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Alpheton.	..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Assington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Boxted.	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bures.	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Chilton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Glemsford...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Great Cornard.	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Great Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Hartest.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Lawshall....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Leavenheath.	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Little Cornard....	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Little Waldingfield.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Long Melford.	....	...	...	...	...	...	35
Nayland.	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wissington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Newton.	....	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shimpling....	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Somerton.....	....	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stanstead...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Stoke-by-Nayland..	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

A weekly service is provided under Contract for Long Melford, Bures St. Mary, Great Cornard and parts of Glemsford and Chilton.

NUISANCES.

69 complaints of various kinds were received, investigated and informal action taken where necessary. No statutory action was required.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

No statutory actions were taken under Sections 9 and 11.

FOOD INSPECTION.Slaughterhouses - Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

			Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	...	...	2,943	46	82	1,690	4,634
Number inspected....	...	...	2,758	45	77	1,603	4,300

All Diseases Except Tuberculosis

Whole Carcasses condemned.	1	-	-	2	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	128	9	1	1	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	4.7	20.0	1.3	-.2	-.6

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned.	2	1	1	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	111	-	-	-	76
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	4.1	2.2	1.3	-	1.8

93.5% of all animals killed received a post mortem inspection.

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Turkey. ... 1
 Beef (Imported frozen)...68-lbs.
 Meat products. ... 8-tins.
 Milk products. ...10-tins.
 Fish products. ... 2-tins.
 Fruit products. ...38-tins.
 Vegetable products. ... 4-tins.

FOOD PREMISES.

Butchers' Shops.

Nine premises were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages.

Wet Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Three shops were registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the frying of fish, and one for the smoking of fish.

Sale of Ice Cream.

Thirty premises were registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, etc.

There were fifteen persons registered as Distributors of Milk in the District, and five premises (not being dairy farms) were registered as Dairies.

Eleven dealers were licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and ten to sell Pasteurised Milk.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continues to employ one Rodent Operator.

CONCLUSION.

I would like to record my appreciation of the manner in which Mr. I.C. Hazell, Additional Sanitary Inspector, carried out his duties while I was away through illness, for two and a half months. The excellent condition in which I found the Office on my return was a testimony to his enthusiasm as well as his ability.

SECTION G.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease Notified during Year.

CASES NOTIFIED.

<u>Civilian</u>							
<u>Disease.</u>				<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1952.</u>
Scarlet Fever. ....	...	...	...	1	35	29	3
Whooping Cough. ....	...	...	...	35	137	67	36
Measles. ....	...	...	...	122	-	358	80
Diphtheria.....	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia. ....	...	...	...	15	19	32	12
Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	-	1	6	2
Ophthalmia - Neonatorum...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis. ....	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever. ....	...	...	...	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis. ....	...	...	...	1	2	1	7
Dysentery. ....	...	...	...	4	3	10	-
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	...	...	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning. ....	...	...	...	4	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>Total all Types.</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year.	28	36	64	4	8	12	76
No. of cases added during the year.	3	3	6	-	-	-	6
No. of cases removed during the year.	10	11	21	2	-	2	23
No. remaining on register at end of year.	21	28	49	2	8	10	59

SECTION E.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

Several cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of these animals, either by deep burial in lime or by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION G.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

